



USAID | PHILIPPINES

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Information Sheet for U.S. Training of Participants

1. Medical Examination. USAID requires all participants to undergo the prescribed medical examination at the following designated medical facilities only. You may contact USAID/Philippines' Office of Program Resources Management (PRM) for your referral letter.

- a) St. Luke's Medical Extension Clinic in Manila; and
- b) Davao Doctors Hospital in Davao City.

2. U.S. Visa. Increased homeland security concerns have led to significant changes in the way J-1 visas for USAID participant trainees are to be issued and tracked. Effective immediately, with the procedural changes in processing J-1 visas, the implementing partner must enter and send the participant data into TraiNet six weeks prior to the participant's travel to the U.S. Documents enumerated in item 3 below should be submitted to PRM on or before the participant's data has been entered into TraiNet for verification. **It is U.S. Department of State policy that USAID-sponsored participants are admitted to the U.S. only under a J-1 visa.** Please note that the visa fee for USAID-sponsored participants is waived.

We would like to emphasize that the DS-2019 (formerly IAP66-A), which is required for obtaining the J-1 visa, now originates from the U.S. and no longer from USAID/Philippines. Furthermore, the U.S. Embassy in Manila is one of the busiest in the world in terms of processing applications for both immigrant and non-immigrant visas. Thus, advance planning is not only encouraged but required in order to process the participants in a timely manner.

Participants who already hold valid B1/B2 visitor visas to the U.S. are still required to obtain, use, and abide by the terms of the J-1 visa in order to participate in USAID-sponsored training. Returnees from U.S. training may continue to use valid B1/B2 visas for short trips while fulfilling the two-year, home-country residency requirement before permanent U.S. residence is allowed or to perform non-immigrant temporary services or labor.

3. Documents to be forwarded to USAID/PRM:

- a) Photocopy of USAID's funding confirmation;
- b) Photocopy of participant selection documentation and acceptance letter from the training institution;
- c) Travel Authorization;
- d) Employment Certification;
- e) Passport valid for at least 6 months from the date of departure from the host country
- f) Original medical examination results;
- g) Completed and signed Non-Immigrant Visa Application Form (DS-156) with 1.5" x 1.5" color picture with white background attached; Supplemental Non-Immigrant Visa Application (DS-157); and Contact Information and Work History for Non-Immigrant Visa Applicant (DS-158);
- h) Completed and signed Conditions of Sponsorship for J-1 Visa Holders;
- i) Completed and signed Stakeholder Compact;
- j) Valid National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Certification for Travel to the US; and
- k) Bio-Data.